

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/698,143
Attorney Docket No. Q60866

Consequently, the Examiner withdrew the previous indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2 and 11, in light of newly applied Long.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-44 are allowed. Claims 7, 9, 10, and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since, as discussed below, Applicants eliminate Long as a prior art reference by perfecting Applicants' claim for priority, claims 7, 9, 10, and 13 should be allowed in their present form.

Furthermore, the Examiner indicates that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants, as discussed below, overcome the rejection of claim 16. Consequently, claim 16 should be allowed.

III. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asks, how can the second chamber contain both ink and maintenance liquid?

Claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein said second divided chamber contains **one of** reserve ink and maintenance liquid" (emphasis added). Thus, claim 16 recites that the second divided chamber contains either reserve ink or maintenance liquid. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 16.

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IV. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-6, 8, 11-12, 14-15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Long. Since the priority date of the present application antedates the filing date of Long, Applicants eliminate Long as a prior art reference by submitting herewith verified English translations of the Japanese priority documents, thus perfecting their claim to priority. Elimination of Long as a prior art reference overcomes the § 102(e) rejections.

V. Formal Matters

A. Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings, stating that the drawings must show every feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that "the differences in height and volume of elements (claim 18) and the rib provided with a concave portion (claim 20) must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims". Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings do illustrate the features of claim 18 and claim 20. For example, Applicants' Fig. 18(a) and Fig. 18(b) illustrate an ink absorbing member 74 and an ink absorbing member 74', each having a different volume. Furthermore, Applicants' Fig. 18(a) and Fig. 18(b) illustrate a rib 75 and a rib 75', each having a different height.

Furthermore, claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, "at least one rib formed at said concave portion so as to be parallel to the third side wall and to protrude to said ink supply port" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings do illustrate the features of claim 20. For example, Applicants' Fig. 27(a) illustrates ribs 143, 144, 145, and 146 formed at the concave portions 140 and 141.

B. Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claim 15, stating that "perpendicular" on line 3 should be changed to "parallel". Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's proposed change. For example, in Fig. 10(a), ink supply needles are arranged so as to provide areas 53a with ink. Consequently, the arrangement direction of these ink supply needles is perpendicular (not parallel as suggested by the Examiner) to the first walls 52 of Fig. 10(a). Thus, claim 15 is correct in its current form. *See also*, Applicants' page 17, lines 8-12.

C. Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that the differences in height and volume of elements (claims 18 and 42) are not described in the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification (including the drawings) provides adequate basis for the recited features of claims 18 and 42. For example, Applicants' specification discloses an ink absorbing member 74 and an ink absorbing member 74', each having a different volume. *See, e.g.*, Applicants' page 21, lines 3-16; Figs. 18(a) and 18(b). Likewise, Applicants' specification discloses a rib 75 and a rib 75', each having a different height. *See, e.g.*, Applicants' page 21, lines 3-16; Figs. 18(a) and 18(b).

Furthermore, the Examiner indicates that the rib of claim 20 is not described in the specification to be provided with a concave portion. Claim 20 recites, *inter alia*, "at least one rib formed at said concave portion so as to be parallel to the third side wall and to protrude to said ink supply port" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that the specification

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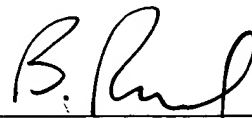
(including the drawings) provides adequate basis for the recited features of claim 20. For example, Applicants' specification discloses ribs 143, 144, 145, and 146 formed in the concave portions 140 and 141. *See, e.g.*, page 27, lines 11-19; Fig. 27(a).

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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